

New CIA Choice

In his second attempt to fill the sensitive post of director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), President Carter has come up with a good choice in Adm. Stansfield Turner, but perhaps to the detriment of the Navy.

Adm. Turner, after a brilliant career that made him commander of Allied forces in southern Europe at age 53, appeared to be headed for the Navy's top job, Chief of Naval Operations.

And since he is a highly intelligent and innovative officer, he could have performed valuable service as the head of the Navy, which still is one of the most tradition-bound military branches.

However, after the collapse of the nomination of Theodore Sorensen for CIA chief, Mr. Carter had to find, quickly, someone who was qualified to lead that agency and who would be ap-

proved by the Senate Intelligence Committee.

As Mr. Carter calculated, Adm. Turner is being welcomed by the so-called intelligence community, which has ways of sinking an unwanted nominee, and by the Senate. In fact, the only opposition has come from those who object to a "military man" in the post.

Such opposition is well-meaning but silly. It presupposes that Adm. Turner comes equipped with a "military mind" and that he will interpret intelligence and advise the President only the way the Pentagon wants.

Fortunately, Adm. Turner appears to be an independent thinker capable of furnishing President Carter with objective intelligence information. His background as a Rhodes scholar, defense systems analyst and president of the Naval War College makes him a good bet to manage the CIA successfully.

Mr. Carter, however, is doing his Annapolis classmate no favor. When Adm. Turner learns exactly what is involved in controlling CIA abuses, illegalities and "dirty tricks" and in separating the probable from the self-serving in intelligence, he may long for his former admiral's barge in Naples Bay.